

25004
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argument before us is definitely one of philosophy as much as anything else. Right, etc. I, personally, don't want to stand up here and make a lot of comments. I feel very deeply that we're endangering the process, we're endangering quite a few things by the way we've acted on LB 204. I very strongly feel that this bill as any bill presented to the Legislature should have a public hearing. I don't want to stand up here and give a Patrick Henry speech but I believe very deeply in this and I think there are members in this body who do. I hope that there are 25 who do and I know that the people of Nebraska feel this way. So even if I am defeated on this motion today, if the Legislature wants to with 25 votes you can do anything. I think that there is more at stake here than just the name of Senator Carpenter or one single bill presented to this body and I hope that others will take this attitude and support my motion to send LB 204 to a committee for a public hearing.

SPEAKER: Is there any further discussion of that motion? The chair recognizes Senator Frank Lewis, then Senator Fred Carstens, then Senator Nore.

SENATOR FRANK LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I think that people should realize the real affect of what we're doing with a much needed bill. I think that there is an attempt to prove some points on power structure in this Legislature and that's nice except I think that in this same vein we are in essence defeating a bill that I think can do a great service for the people of this state and it is interesting to me to note that many of those that have given lip service to upgrade this body, to make it a real viable legislative body with the tools at hand to do the job are those that are engaged in this. I, for one, support this concept of district office for constituent service without reservation. Now if we want to debate the issue of the power of the Executive Board or the power of Senator Carpenter, let's do that but let's separate it from 204 which is a good bill with good intent and I think it is time that we learn to separate substance from procedure. 204 is a bill of substance and the power of Senator Carpenter and the Executive Board and hearings and investigation, that's procedure. Let's separate the two and I'm in favor of moving this bill right straight forward to passage and let's get some constituent service involved here.

SPEAKER: I had indicated that next I would call on Senator Fred Carstens but I wonder if Senator Carstens if you would yield the floor to Senator Schmit and that he had earlier asked to be recognized. The chair recognizes Senator Schmit. Thank you, Senator Carstens.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I think that if I had heard Senator Lewis' speech before I requested to speak I probably wouldn't have had to get up, but I do think this. I think that we're allowing ourselves to be pushed around by a few people who are trying to degrade the body. I think, again, it's time to stand up on your feet. If you think you need the extra services that have been proposed by the Executive Board, vote that way. If you don't think so, vote against the bill but let's not stand here and thresh old straw and kick the same old bag of bones around time after time just because someone said that, perhaps, Senator Carpenter is exercising far more authority than he should. The members of the Executive Board are nine in number, can trim his authority at any time and those of you who elected those of us to that Board can convey your wishes to us individually. No one has come to me at any time and lamented very seriously about any of the problems that we have on the Board. I think that it is time that we proceed and we vote on the bill. I don't see any great benefit to be gained from the public hearing. There is really nothing wrong with it going to a hearing. I thought we were going to expedite the bill. I think